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NO. 26.

BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

January 1 to 15, 1910.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

AMYGDALUS PERSICA. 26472. Seed of a wild peach from Kashmir, India, presented by Mr. J. Mollison, Inspector General of Agriculture in India. These trees bear fruit when 4 years old and 15 feet high. 26503. Seed of a peach from Chinese Turkestan, presented by Mr. E. Cotes, Simla, India. Both numbers for distribution later.

BROUSSONETIA. Kogo. 26492. B. PAPYRIFERA. 26493. Cuttings of paper making plants from Settsu, near Kobe, Japan. Procured by Mr. Albert J. Perkins from the Japan Nursery Co. For distribution later.

CITRULLUS VULGARIS. 26504. Watermelon from Chinese Turkestan. Presented by Mr. E. Cotes, Simla, India. For distribution later.

DIOSPYROS. 26490-491. Cuttings of two varieties of persimmons, Hachiya and Fuyu Kaki, from Settsu, near Kobe, Japan. Procured by Mr. A. J. Perkins from the Japan Nursery Co. For distribution later.

CITRUS AURANTIUM. 26494. Natsu-mikan, from Settsu, near Kobe, Japan. Procured by Mr. Albert J. Perkins from the Japan Nursery Co. Miss S. J. Scidmore has said of this fruit: "The Natsu-mikan, or summer orange, is needed here as a successor of grape fruit at the season when there is nothing to take the place of that most refreshing fruit. Nothing equals the piercing, delicious sourness of Natsu-mikan, which is so decidedly a sour orange only - not a lemon nor a lime in the least." For distribution later.

ERYTHRINA INDICA. 26499. From Kavali, Nellore district, India. Presented by Rev. E. Bullard. A useful hedge tree used commonly here around betel leaf gardens. The Telugu name is Badidi or Badeshi. Its leaf is an excellent fodder for cattle, sheep and goats. The wood is also used in making ordinary implements.

D. G. Fairchild

MALUS SYLVESTRIS. 26475. Seed of a wild apple from Kashmir, India, presented by Mr. J. Mollison. Bears fruit when 6 years old and 20 feet high. For distribution later.

MEDICAGO SPP. 26070-077. Eight varieties of bur clover grown at Plant Introduction Garden, Chico, California, by Mr. Roland McKee. Small quantities of seed on hand for experiment. 26070. M. hispida confinis. A prickleless form of bur clover, well adapted for pasturage, especially for sheep. It should be tested throughout the South and Southwest. 26071-072. M. hispida nigra, will perhaps succeed wherever M. hispida denticulata or M. arabica does well. In California it is perhaps a little more aggressive than M. hispida. Of value for pasturage and soil improvement. 26073-074. M. hispida Gaertn. Of value for pasturage and soil improvement, wherever common bur clover is adapted. 26075. M. hispida terebellum. This is practically a prickleless form of bur clover and needs to be tested extensively in the West and South for pasturage and soil improvement. 26076. M. muricata. A form of bur clover having a large but very hard bur. Should be tested in sections adapted to bur clover. 26077. M. scutellata. A form of bur clover having a very large, papery pod, making it especially desirable for pasturage. It should be tested in particular in the warmer sections of the South.

PENNISETUM PEDICELLATUM. Var. occidentale. 26476. Pearl millet from Senegal, West Africa. Presented by Dr. L. Trabut. For distribution later.

PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA. 26477-484. Eight varieties of dates from Tripoli-in-Barbary, North Africa. Procured by the American vice consul at the request of Mr. Wm. Coffin, formerly American consul.

PRUNUS ARMENIACA. 26473. Seed of a wild apricot from Kashmir, India, presented by Mr. J. Mollison. For distribution later. 26502. Seed of apricot from Chinese Turkestan, presented by Mr. E. Cotes, Simla, India.

PRUNUS CERASUS. 26471. Seed of a wild cherry from Kashmir, India, presented by Mr. J. Mollison. This tree bears fruit when 5 years old and 10 feet high. For distribution later.

PYRUS SPP. 26485-489. Cuttings of five kinds of pear from Manchuria. Presented by Mr. Edward C. Parker. "All these pears are hardy and resistant to drought and high, drying winds. They are cultivated by the Chinese in many places among the hills of southwestern Manchuria, as far north as 43-44°. The fruits are all hard, maturing late and keeping all winter. The quality of the fruit is not anywhere near as good as the American Bartlett or Anjou; it is quite edible, however, and might be valuable in such regions as North and South Dakota, where hot winds, short periods of drought and cold winters form a climate very similar to the native habitat of these trees.
PYRUS COMMUNIS. 26474. Seed of a wild pear from Kashmir, India, Presented by Mr. J. Mollison. For distribution later.

RHEUM NOBILE. 26501. Rhubarb from Sikkim, E. Hamalaya, India, presented by A. T. Gage, Superintendent Royal Botanical Garden, Sibpur, Calcutta, India.

SOLANUM SPP. 26517-535. Tubers of Chilean potatoes, first generation grown from seed at Arlington Farm, Virginia, under the supervision of Mr. W. V. Shear. Turned over to this office for distribution, January, 1910. Nineteen varieties.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

CHINA, Hankow. A. Snyder sends an Ichang lemon. It weighs 20 oz. These lemons are coarse in flavor but the juice from a fresh one will three fourths fill an ordinary tumbler.

CHINA, Kia ying chau. Geo. Campbell, Dec. 13. Can send cuttings of a seedless grape, two kinds of persimmons, two kinds of carambolas (Averrhoa carambola), sweet and sour and the great fragrant Chinese lemon (hiong-yen.)

INDIA, Sibpur, Calcutta. A. Gage, Dec. 7. Says he will be glad to help in introducing good mango varieties from India.

JAMAICA, Kingston. W. Harris, Jan. 7. Sends a copy of the Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society for December, 1909, containing a report on varieties of Castilla rubber in Costa Rica.

JAVA, Buitenzorg, Department of Agriculture, Dec. 4. In the spring will send a Wardian case containing plants of Atalantia bilocularis, A. puberula, A. monophylla, Feronia lucida, Glycosmis pentaphylla, varieties angusta and dilatata, and Murraya exotica.

MAURITIUS, Reduit. Dr. P. Boname, Nov. 29. Will send seeds of Diospyros tessel aria in April when they are ripe. This is one of the Diospyros species being introduced for use in persimmon breeding.

REPORT FROM F. N. MEYER, AGRICULTURAL EXPLORER.

Mr. Meyer has been delayed in St. Petersburg by the Russian Government which insists on the fulfillment of certain formalities before it allows him to enter Turkestan. In his letter of December 30 he writes that from the specimens of MEDICAGO CANCELLATA which he saw in the herbaria of Kew, Berlin and St. Petersburg it does not appear to be a very robust species, but that it may improve under cultivation. He is going down to Sarepta to look up Mr. Chiskof who may assist him in getting seed of it. There are specimens of MEDICAGO COERULEA in the St. Petersburg herbarium from South Russia and Sarepta; the species looks very promising and seems to be extremely variable. There are many forms of MEDICAGO FALCATA, such as var. tenuifolia, with narrow leaflets, var. ambigua, of spindly growth, var. desertorum woody and with small leaflets, var. typica with few leaves and these very small. All these forms occur in the Alai mountains, the Ala tau, Thian Shan, around Issyk Kul, Verny, etc., in the region he is going to explore. MEDICAGO PLATYCARPA, occurring in the Ala tau and Thian Shan and in the valley of the Ili, is a perennial species

of robust growth and bearing yellow flowers. It is quite distinct from other medicagos and may not readily hybridize with them, but looks very promising as a fodder plant. MEDICAGO CRETACEA occurs in cliffs in the Caucasus; it is a rather small and stunted perennial species of apparently little value from an economic point of view. MEDICAGO RUTHENICA is very variable and the big forms look promising as a fodder plant. It occurs mostly in Central and Western Siberia. MEDICAGO DAGESTANICA, a small perennial species from a small district in the Caucasus (Awarsk, province Dagestan), does not promise to be of economic value. MEDICAGO LITTORALIS, perennial of small growth, very tomentose, from the Caucasus. MEDICAGO GLUTINOSA, a perennial of robust growth, yellow flowers, quite variable, apparently very promising; occurs in the Kuban province, Caucasus. MEDICAGO RUPESTRIS, a small, perennial, more or less alpine species, occurring in the Caucasus. Of no economic value. ARISTIDA PENNATA has been of very great service as a sand-binder in building the Central Asian railway. He thinks this and the Saxsaul (Halimodendron) will be of value in the Southwest. Also describes several species of AMYGDALUS, wild and cultivated, from Central Asia; and some semi-desert species of PINUS. In a letter of December 24 he sends a small sample of a fiber coming from a climbing leguminous plant growing in the interior of German East Africa and much used by the natives there. Dr. C. Brunner of the Hamburg Botanical Institute says it is one of the strongest fibers of the world. It is unknown botanically.

Printed inventories 18 and 19 are now out, including S.P.I. numbers 24430 to 25717. Among the things listed in these inventories are to be found Prof. Hansen's introductions from Central Asia, notably three very promising species of Medicago resistant to cold and drought; also a number of durum wheats from Siberia and some remarkable winter muskmelons; Persian clover or Shabdar, now being tried for the irrigated Southwest, and sand-binders used along the Transcaspian railway. Another notable importation was that of more than 3000 bamboo plants from Japan including two of the best known timber species and one species having edible shoots. Among fruits there are three delicious ones from Java - the Doekoe,

the Ramboetan and the Poelasan; a south China relative of the orange (Atalantia bilocularis) for breeding purposes; the Indian bael fruit and its near relative from the Philippines, Belou glutinosa; the edible passion fruit of Mexico, a much neglected fruit possibility for the Southwest; Diospyros ebenaster, a relative of the persimmon; a new, fine-flavored mango from Tahiti; strains of the Chilean strawberry; five varieties of Chilean anonas; the Legrellei pomegranate, an unusually hardy form from Switzerland; a collection of valuable pomegranates from Bagdad, Arabia, and an interesting aromatic fruit from East Africa, the Kafir orange. Cereal and forage crop growers will be interested in a Japanese rice which promises to supersede other types in Hawaii; nine varieties of rice from Trinidad; the JowarSh olapur, a new class of Indian durra; seventeen varieties of sorghum from Togo, Africa; a collection of soy beans from India and ten varieties from Manchuria; Chinese grains from an altitude of11,000 feet in the Yangtze valley; an unusual collection of grains, legumes and sorghums from the uplands of Abyssinia, and tropical legumes from Bombay. Another collection of muskmelons consisting of extra-choice winter varieties adapted to California conditions has been received from the American vice-consul at Valencia, Spain. A curious rubber plant only recently described has been received from Angola, West Africa. It is a slow-growing desert type in which the rubber is stored up in turnip-shaped underground roots. A new East African rubber tree was sent in by Mr. Barrett and the famous virgin rubber tree secured from Colombia, South America. Numerous other useful and ornamental plants and trees are described in these inventories.